

Freedom In Education

Education is our first line of defense. And it begins, like most other things, with money—more money for more and better schools; and more money for more and better teachers. The need is *now*, it is imperative, and it ranges the educational system from kindergarten to college, from primary to professional school. Surely the richest nation on earth can meet at least this *material* need! And surely the genius of American business can devise how best to do it.

But there is a second need which must be met if education is to make its greatest possible contribution to the full flowering of the American people. Nothing must hamper its freedom of inquiry and discussion.

This Nation was conceived and rose to world leadership on the ideas of nonconformists and free-wheelers, of men and women of integrity and wide vision, of individuals with bold far-reaching minds, who insisted on crossing the frontiers of the unknown. By every estimate they were courageous people. They dared to disagree on many things, but our country and our culture are infinitely richer and stronger for their challenge.

"We must indoctrinate in our young people the desire to be courageous, to have the will to win, to seek the truth, never to stop learning, to have the will to find out and, having found out, to hold fast to the privilege, and never be afraid of changing their opinion on the basis of new facts."—*Richard L. Bowditch, president, Chamber of Commerce of the United States, April 28, 1954.*